

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor including:

a transition duct having a supply end, a main passage, a dispense end, and a discharge outlet at the dispense end;

a supply means for supplying paper particles to a supply end of a the transition duct, the particles being conveyed through a the main passage in the duct and expelled through a the discharge outlet at a dispense end of the duct;

at least two contra-rotating helical conveying screws driven by a screw driving means and mounted in the transition duct, the screws each having at least one helical blade and being cantilevered at one end to the supply end and are unsupported at the dispense end of the duct;

wherein a substantially constant clearance between one or more the helical blades on the screws and the main passage allows for an even and uninterrupted flow of the particulate through the transition duct.

2. (Original) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in Claim 1, wherein there is also a constant clearance between the blades themselves, namely by positioning the blades of the screws 180° out of phase to one another.

3. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the clearance between the inside of the transition duct and the blades of the screws is between 50-100 mm.

4. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, wherein the supply means feeds particulate through an inlet opening in the transition duct located above the screws and adjacent the main passage.

5. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 4, wherein the screws each have a stepped shaft wherein the step in the

shaft is directly below the inlet opening, the smaller diameter maintained through the main passage to the discharge outlet.

6. (Original) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the shaft step is located at a point vertically below the periphery of the inlet that is adjacent the supply end of the transition duct.

7. (Original) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the shaft step is vertically below the periphery and slightly back from a direct line below the periphery and the inside of the inlet opening.

8. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in Claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein the shaft step is approximately 50mm back from a direct line below the periphery and the inside of the inlet opening.

9. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, wherein a restriction is provided vertically below the periphery of the supply means that restricts the clearance between the supply end and the main passage.

10. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, wherein an airflow at the dispense end of the transition duct is provided to create a vacuum effect to assist the particle flow through the conveyor and to create a negative pressure gradient between the inlet and outlet, thereby minimising the generation of dust in the hopper.

11. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, wherein two helical blades are provided on each of the helical screws.

12. (Cancelled)